



**First Presbyterian
Church**
of Pittsburgh

Virtual Worship

Facebook - @fpcp1758
August 2, 2020 - 10:45 am

Prelude: "Simple Gifts"
arr. Virgil Fox

Ryan Croyle

Time of Welcome

Rev. Tom Hall

Call to Worship

Rev. Dan Turis

The sacrifices to God are not of blood and animal but of a broken and contrite heart. He will not despise the sincere worshipper. We worship a God who knows all things and directs all things. He knows who you are, and he still loves you. Because he loves you, he wants you to worship him. He wants you to worship him, not out of obligation but out of compulsion. He coaxes your heart to praise. Let us worship the God who knows everything about us and delights in our praise.

Opening Hymn #521: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dan Turis

Lord, we build plenty of walls between you and us. We grasp our gods with clenched fists. We hope you don't mind. We hope that our little things that we place between us are not a big deal to you. We might even think that the small little thing is not bothering you at all. Lord, we know it is a not true. We know these small little things are not small or little. To you they create a chasm between us. Lord, we thank you that you bridged the chasm and walked across it to us. We thank you for your grace. Because of this grace, we are able to confess that we have sinned mightily against you. Forgive us for the walls we build and the chasms we make. Take from us all that which separates us, Lord. Renew our hearts. We thank you, Lord Jesus. *Amen.*

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Children's Message

Jana Hall

Scripture Reading: Luke 16:19-31

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

²² "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

²⁵ “But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

²⁷ “He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’ ²⁹ “Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

³⁰ “No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

³¹ “He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Sermon – “The One God Helps”

Rev. Tom Hall

Pastoral Prayer/Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Anthem: “Above All”

Paul Baloche

Matt Sartore, *bass*

*Above all powers, above all kings,
Above all nature and all created things;
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man,
You were here before the world began.*

*Crucified, laid behind a stone,
You lived to die rejected and alone.
Like a rose trampled on the ground,
You took the fall and thought of me above all.*

*Above all kingdoms, above all thrones,
Above all wonders the world has ever known;
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth,
There’s no way to measure what You’re worth.*

Call for the Offering

Online giving available through GivePlus



Rev. Dan Turis

Closing Hymn #863: “Take My Life and Let It Be” (vs 1-3, 6)

Benediction and Charge

Rev. Tom Hall

Postlude: “Fugue in D Minor”

J.S. Bach

Ryan Croyle

521 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

A7 D A D G A7 D

1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my *Eb-en - e - zer; hith-er by thy help I've come;
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!

A7 D A D G A7 D

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 Let that grace now like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee:

A7 D G D A7 D G D

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
 Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, wan-dering from the fold of God;
 prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

A7 D A D G A7 D

Praise the mount—I'm fixed up - on it—mount of God's un-chang-ing love.
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre - cious blood.
 here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

* "Then Samuel took a stone . . . called its name Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the Lord has helped us'" (1 Sam. 7:12)

Take My Life and Let It Be

F C7 F Dm Gm F/C C7 F

1 Take my life and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee.
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love.
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King.
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would I with - hold.

C C7 F B^b

Take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in
 Take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti -
 Take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag -
 Take my in - tel - lect and use ev - ery power as

C7 Dm F B^b F/C C F

end - less praise, let them flow in end - less praise.
 ful for thee, swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 es from thee, filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
 thou shalt choose, ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
 it shall be no longer mine.
 Take my heart—it is thine own;
 it shall be thy royal throne,
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 at thy feet its treasure store.
 Take myself, and I will be
 ever, only, all for thee,
 ever, only, all for thee.

Alternate tune: TEBBEN (with no repeat) see 376, 864

Words: Frances R. Havergal, 1874, P.D.

Music (HENDON 7.7.7.7 with repeat): H.A. Cesar Malan, 1827, P.D.



First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh

The Latest from *Pastor Tom Hall*

08-02-20 **Just do something?**

Presbyterian pastor and author Rodger Nishioka told of stopping at a grocery store to buy milk after flying in one night from a speaking engagement. It was late, Rodger was tired, there was only one cashier, and the woman in line ahead of him was short of cash. She was sorting through her groceries trying to decide what she could afford.

“How much does she need?” Rodger asked the cashier, as he made up the difference.

As the woman started to leave, she turned to Rodger and said, “You didn’t even ask me my name.”

Bless Rodger for telling this story on himself.

Was he helping the woman, or was he solving a problem so he could get home to bed?

What if the answer has cosmic consequences?

The preaching text this week is Jesus’ parable of a rich man and a beggar named Lazarus from Luke 16. In all of Jesus’ parables, he’s the only character with a name.

It means “the one *God* helps.”

In the parable, the rich man lived in luxury while the poor man had nothing. Lazarus longed to eat the scraps that fell from the rich man’s table, but the man gave him nothing. Then the rich man died and went to hell and was in agony. Looking up to heaven, he saw Lazarus resting in comfort next to Abraham. He pleaded with Abraham to send Lazarus back from the dead to warn his brothers that hell was real. Abraham said that people have had all the warning they were going to get. They wouldn’t believe “even if someone rises from the dead.”

So, what’s the lesson? Help the poor or you’re going to hell?

I don’t think so.

A better question might be, *why* help the poor?

Why do justice? Why fight racism?

In the midst of multiple crises today, it’s easy to feel helpless. In our desire to “just do something” it’s tempting to latch on to any cause, any movement, that might feel right.

But what do we accomplish when we abandon Christ and his ways?

Nothing that matters.

When we serve, we have a choice to serve in his name, with his heart and his ways, or not.

There *is* someone who rose from the dead. He’s bringing in a new kingdom; setting things right, and painfully few seem to believe it.